
Brins Fire Burning North of Sedona

(June 21, 12 p.m.) The Brins Fire is burning north of Sedona in the Coconino National Forest. The size of the fire has been estimated at 2,450 acres and is approximately 5 percent contained.

Effective at 5 p.m. today, the evacuations are lifted for the north end of Soldiers Pass Road (everything north of Casa Contenta) and upper part of Jordan Road (everything north of Navahopi).

The evacuation order continues for Oak Creek Canyon from Midgely Bridge to the fish hatchery in Sterling Canyon (this includes homes, businesses and Forest Service campgrounds).

Evacuations are re-evaluated on a daily basis.

Summary: The Brins Fire has moved down into Oak Creek Canyon and has reached U.S. Highway 89A. A successful burnout was conducted by fire crews in the early morning hours today to remove fuels along the west side of Highway 89A.

Incident plans for today: Crews will continue to implement structural protection measures for residences and other structures along Highway 89A. Helicopters will be used to support the firefighters and slow the fire spread.

Munds Park and Kachina Village are currently under an emergency preparedness advisory. There is a significant amount of smoke in the area. Residents should be prepared to evacuate if an evacuation order is issued. **HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO EVACUATION ORDERS FOR THESE AREAS AT THIS TIME.** The Brins Fire is burning north and is approximately 6 to 8 miles from the community of Munds Park. The fire is 10 to 12 miles from Kachina Village.

Closures: U.S. Highway 89A is closed through Oak Creek Canyon. The closure will be re-evaluated daily.

Trail/Road Closures Related to Brins Fire:

Forest Road 152 off of Dry Creek Road (access road into Vultee Arch) is closed. (The county road known as Dry Creek Road is open.)

All trails off of Forest Road 152 are closed. Those trails are: Brins Mesa, Devil's Bridge, Secret Canyon. Also, the road to VanDeren Cabin is closed.

The North Urban Trails System is closed. That system includes Jordan Trailhead, Soldier Pass Trailhead, Sugarloaf Trailhead, Thunder Mountain Trailhead and all trails connecting from those trailheads.

Kelly Canyon Road west of I-17

The south end of Woody Mountain Road (Forest Road 231) where it intersects with Forest Road 535

Forest Road 237 at Kachina Village

Slide Rock State Park is closed

Campgrounds and businesses in Oak Creek Canyon

Some of these road closures are related to smoke impacts.

As fire danger increases across the Southwest, the Coconino National Forest will close to public access and use Friday, June 23 at 8 a.m. Included in the Coconino NF closures:

All campgrounds, day use picnic areas and cabins on the forest.

All trails on the Coconino National Forest.

All lakes, including Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, Kinnikinick Lake, Blue Ridge Reservoir, Stoneman Lake.

Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff.

St. Joseph's Youth Camp near Mormon Lake.

Arizona Snowbowl Skyride.

All National Forest System Roads will be closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the Coconino National Forest will remain open.

Sedona businesses remain open. Visitors to the area should access Sedona via state Route 179 through the Village of Oak Creek or from Cottonwood via U.S. Highway 89A.

The Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter is operating two evacuation centers. Coconino County Health Department has outlined steps to follow when evacuating pets. Citizens can learn how to evacuate and how to build a disaster kit.

Evacuation Center for people evacuating south of Slide Rock:

Big Park Community School

25 W. Saddle Horn Road

Village of Oak Creek

Evacuation Center for people evacuating north of Slide Rock:

NAU Field House

Northern Arizona University (Corner of Knoles Drive and McCreary, next to the University Union)
Flagstaff, Ariz.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is monitoring the smoke in the air around the Brins Fire. Wildfire smoke can trigger health concerns and avoid breathing smoke if you can help it. If you are healthy, you usually are not at a major risk from smoke. But people at risk include people with heart or lung diseases, children and older adults.

Predicted Weather: Hot and dry will continue. Temperatures on the range will range from 93-100, with 7-13 percent humidity today. Winds will be generally be out of the west-southwest at 5-10 mph. Winds on the northeast side of Wilson Mountain and Sterling Pass where the fire is now most active will range from 12-17 mph.

The extended forecast predicts a high pressure system building over the region bringing above normal temperatures Thursday through Sunday. Relative humidities will remain in the single digits to low teens. The possibility exists for isolated late afternoon dry thunderstorms with gusty winds.

The Broyles' Type 1 Great Basin Incident Management Team is managing the fire. There are 594 personnel assigned to the fire and the resources committed include: 13 crews, 7 helicopters and 31 engines.

Structures: No structures have been lost.

Cause: Officials have determined the apparent cause of the Brins Fire is an escaped campfire from a suspected transient camp in the area. The investigation is ongoing. If anyone has any information concerning the start of the fire, please call U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement at (928) 527-3508.

Important phone numbers

To speak to a volunteer in the state emergency call center, dial 2-1-1 or 888-Go-To-211 (888-468-6211).

For fire information and all media inquiries, please call the Brins Fire Information Center at 928-203-7732, 928-203-9648 or 928-203-9650.

For information related to the Coconino National Forest including fire restrictions/closures and for residential evacuee information, please call the Coconino National Forest Information Center at (928) 226-4601.

For evacuation-related concerns, please call the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at (928) 774-4523.

Road conditions statewide, call 5-1-1.

(Source: Coconino National Forest , Coconino County Sheriff's Office and American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter)